

Southern Region Extension & Research Support Staff Association (SRERSSA)  
1<sup>st</sup> Annual Business Meeting  
November 14, 2008  
9:00 a.m.  
Radisson Hotel at Opryland  
Nashville, TN

Presiding – Donna Fulp, **President**, SRERSSA, North Carolina

Mrs. Fulp called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and thanked everyone for coming. She encouraged those present to go back and encourage others from their state to attend the next meeting.

Dr. Mitch Owen, Director, Personal and Organizational Development, NC State University was acknowledged as the **facilitator** at the initial organizational meeting. He thanked everyone for their leadership in getting the organization started. He offered his support in getting the professional development of the organization on track and keeping it there. He is very optimistic about the association getting started and becoming successful.

Christine Barrier, **Parliamentarian**, North Carolina, presented the parliamentary review. As it was the inaugural meeting and no approved by-laws were established at the time, unanimous consent to consider all present as members with full voting privileges was called for. There was no objection and a unanimous vote of consent was received from all present.

Tammy Morton, **Recording Secretary**, South Carolina, presented the organizational meeting minutes from July 12, 2007. Changes to minutes (changed to notes as there were no by-laws at the time). A misspelled name was corrected on the last page. A motion was made (Fran Little, NC), second received (Devona Beard, NC) and notes were unanimously approved with changes that were suggested.

Agenda for the meeting was reviewed for any changes. A motion (Carol Horne, NC) was made to present the Rules & By-laws Standing Committee report presented before the Nominating committee report. Motion was seconded by Sharon Smith; MS. Vote was unanimous to make this change to the agenda.

Glenda Jenkins, **Membership Secretary**, Mississippi presented the roll call by state. She asked that one person from each state stand and tell how many members from that state were present at the meeting.

Alabama – 2  
Louisiana – 15  
Kentucky – 2  
Mississippi – 41

North Carolina – 37  
Ohio – 1  
South Carolina – 1  
West Virginia – 0

A total of 99 members were present for the business meeting.

Parliamentarian reminded Mrs. Fulp that Agenda had not been approved. A motion was made (Nancy Miller, NC) and a second received (Kaye Morton, NC) to approve the agenda. Vote was unanimous to accept agenda.

State Reports were called for from each state present.

**Alabama** – Donna Mahrons, May 13-15, Fort Payne, Alabama next annual meeting. Everyone was invited.

**Louisiana** – Jody Davis, President of Chi Epsilon Sigma, state wide meeting will be at rice research station the first weekend in May. Some of the things done during the year are: two awards given at state meeting-members who have been nominated by anyone in organization. New Professional Development opportunities – linking the website to other professional development sites. Two scholarships are given to members to be used for professional development. Amount is \$250 per scholarship. Our service project is for CASAC (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children). We provided school supply boxes for these children. An invitation was extended to any who wanted to attend.

**Kentucky** – Sally Tanner. Meeting is held third weekend in April. Usually held at the 4-H Leadership Center near Lake Cumberland. Last year it was held at one of the state parks. We had over a 100 members at the meeting last year. Each year we host a member and potential member breakfast during the campus staff appreciation conference in September. We have a community service that we do each year during our membership drive. Our project this year is Camp Courageous, a camp for children and their families that have cancer.

**Mississippi** – Joyce Compton – Our association just organized statewide two years ago. We have about 100 or more members. We have not started charging dues due to the fact we can't have a treasurer due to state money handling policies. We have the support of our administration. We brought 40 people to this meeting.

**North Carolina** – Carol Horne – We've been established for over 30 years. WE have six districts and one campus chapter which includes NCSU and A & T University. We have 235 members. We do district community projects. We give out professional improvement scholarships and other awards at our annual meeting. There is a \$750 scholarship for someone seeking a business degree. Our next state meeting in Raleigh will be held in September.

**Ohio** – Kathy Mohler – I was appointed in October. Our state meeting will be next October. Not sure where it will be at this point. Planning starts when I return from this meeting. We have been an association for 22 years. We have 2 developmental awards for our members that are \$200 each that they can apply for. We are starting an "Excellence in Extension" award for \$1,000 that you can do whatever you please with. Our service project for this year was to get the makings of a Ohio-Michigan game tailgate together and send to our soldiers in Iraq. We have approximately 120 members.

**South Carolina** – Tammy Morton – We have 100 members. Our meeting was held the first week of May on the Clemson campus. We toured the new West-End Zone of the football stadium. We had about 100 people in attendance. This year's meeting has been scaled back due to budget constraints. Although we support and fund our own meeting, we will only be doing a one day meeting in Columbia rather than our normal three day meeting. At this time our website is being revamped.

## Reports from Standing Committees

**Financial Report** – Ann Dalton & Donna Fulp – Green paper that is in your registration packet is the financial report. All it is is a check register. A bank statement is not available at this time as I just got the account opened. Gloria Collette from West Virginia was not able to fulfill her duties as treasurer. All of the first monies that were sent in have been sent to me and I got the account open on October 27. The check register explains itself. On the back page it says that we owe \$2303 for souvenirs and that balance is \$2002.37. We have collected enough money to pay for these and have some left over.

We still have some more donations to come in so we will have some money to turn over to Mary for next years meeting. Debbie King (NC) mad a motion to accept finance report. Motion seconded by Joyce Thompson (MS). Vote unanimous to accept as written. Motion carried.

**Membership Report** – Glenda Jenkins – 99 in attendance at this meeting so we have 99 members as of today (according to what each state reported).

**Rules & By-laws Report** – Mary Baronet – After several drafts and much editing, the standard operating procedures and by-laws were emailed to you at least 30 days ago. There is a copy in the registration packet as well. We have not received any changes therefore today we will be adopting these. I would like to thank all the members of the committee for all they've done.

There were no changes from the floor. Nomination to accept rules and by-laws as presented was made by Debbie Davis (LA). Nomination was seconded by Joyce Thompson (MS). Vote was unanimous to accept as written. Motion carried.

**Nominating Committee Report** – Glenda Jenkins – Membership made up from all states represented at the organizational meeting. Special thanks to Carol Horne for all her help. It is very hard to get a slate of officers with no rules and by-laws in place. Keep in mind when the slate of officers is presented that we did our best to select these officers with integrity and the hope that we made choices that would be pleasing to every member of this association.

**Professional Improvement Committee** – Christine Barrier – Martha Smith and I had the pleasure to serve on this committee for our inaugural year. We were fortunate to secure presenters of extremely high quality and motivating material and who were able to travel at no cost to our association. Good quality professional development comes at a high cost, but to remain a viable partner in the Southern Region our association must retain the best in the

specialized field of professional development and communications this committee will be challenged to continue these efforts in the coming years. NC Extension Professionals Dr. Wanda Sikes, Debra Boss and Minnie Mitchell have ignited the way for our association to continue on the cutting edge to perform as professionals. It will be up to us to continue.

**Planning Committee** – Devona Beard – Apologies to a couple of the ladies from Mississippi for their names being left off the program. Members of the Committee were recognized and thanked for their help in pulling the meeting together.

**Registration Committee** – No report

**Mission Statement Committee** – No report

**Decorating Committee** – Mary Elizabeth Wilson – Thank to my two helpers. We hope you've enjoyed the decorations. On Wednesday, you received the candy jars on the table. Today the decorations on the table can be taken home – pumpkins will be sold for \$2.00 and the leaves for \$0.50.

**Vendors and Door Prize Committee** – No Report

**Webmaster** – Tracy Brown – Web is up. She will be putting up all pictures from the meeting. Apologies in advance if something that you don't like is posted. If you will send the dates of your state meeting, Tracy will put them up so they will be in one place for everyone to see. Tracy will send the url to Mary and have her send it out to everyone.

Mary Baronet, Kathy Mohler, Sally Tanner and Dr. Debbie Davis presented a powerpoint from the Chi Epsilon Sigma chapters of LA, OH, KY & LA. Powerpoint will be made available on the website. Floor was opened for discussion. Decision will be made at a later date as to how to proceed with this. A survey will be done to determine how to come together as one voice and how to grow the association.

Donna reiterated that this is not a competition between Chi Epsilon and SRERSSA. A simple name change could be made. You could still have your own regions and still be members of Chi Epsilon. We don't want to compete. We want to come together. Present it to your respective states this way. We can grow. We can become one. We can become members of JCEP. Talk to your administration. We've made a very good start. Present what we've talked about to your states and make sure that everybody understands that we're going to be one.

**Nominating Committee** – Presentation of Slate of Officers. Carol Horne presented what the nominating committee has done. Met for 2 ½ hours yesterday to decide how to come together. This is why we wanted the by-laws adopted so that we can truly follow them. By-laws state on page 2 section 1 basically what the rotation system on the VP and that is what we have discussed. We want everyone to be represented on the executive board. We did get several nominations from different states. We had to decide if the nominees were qualified. We met the other day to discuss how to make it fair. With the by-laws in place we will proceed with the

nominations. Glenda Jenkins did not participate in the vote for the VP nomination. The blue sheet included in your registration packet is the nomination form. Nominations for any office should've been presented on the first day of the conference in order to have a nomination from the floor. We did receive some nominations hence the meeting.

*The slate of officers presented is as follows:* President – Mary Baronet, LA; Vice President – Glenda Jenkins, MS; Recording Secretary – Tammy Morton, SC; Co-Treasurers – Ann Dalton & Donna Fulp, NC; Membership Secretary – Sally Tanner, KY; and Webmaster – Tracy Brown, NC.

Presentation of slate of officers by committee is considered a motion. There were no questions about the slate as presented. Vote was unanimous to accept the slate of officers as presented. The slate of officers as proposed by the committee is accepted.

Mary Baronet issued an invitation to the next annual meeting to be held in Louisiana. Actual date and place will be determined by a survey in the next week. Any ideas of what to do, see, etc. can be sent to Mary.

Donna Fulp thanked everyone for all they had done. She then conducted the installation of officers. Each officer was presented a crystal rose as they were installed.

A question from the floor was asked about dues. Dues will be decided upon and announced at a later date.

Donna presented a president's gavel to Mary Baronet. Mary presented a plaque to Donna as the first president of this association.

Mary Baronet closed the meeting with several announcements. Everyone was asked to turn in their completed meeting surveys before leaving. Mary adjourned the meeting after a motion was made by Kim Gibson (NC) and a second by Sharon Smith (MS) and an unanimous vote from the membership.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tammy P. Morton  
Recording Secretary